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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH

FOR THE YEAR 1959

PRESENTED BY

G. TATTERSALL, M.A., M.B., B.C.H., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCLUDING

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

F. R. SMITH, C.R.S.I. CERT. INSPECTOR OF MEAT

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MR. F. R. SMITH

Public Health Inspector
Borough of East Retford

January 1925—December 1959

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(from May 1959)

Chairman: Alderman A. Wilson, c.c.

Vice-Chairman: Alderman J. R. Waterfield, J.P.

Alderman F. Nettleton

Alderman L. Tanner

Councillor Miss N. Bradshaw, J.P.

Councillor B. R. Pattison

Councillor J. W. Peatfield, c.c.

Councillor B. Pollard, c.c.

Councillor Mrs. M. E. Williamson

Councillor A. F. Walker

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Public Health Inspector : F. R. Smith *Retired 31/1/60*
H. Brooks *Appointed 1/12/59*

Clerical: Chief Clerk Miss M. Johnson
Miss B. Cross

Tel. No.
RETFORD 561

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
CHANCERY LANE,
RETFORD

July 1960

TO THE MAYOR, AND TO THE
ALDERMEN & COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF EAST RETFORD :

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour on behalf of Dr. R.C. Barker to present the Annual Report for the year 1959 on the health and sanitary circumstances of the East Retford Borough, compiled in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

Dr. R. C. Barker retired as the Borough Medical Officer of Health in August, 1959, and I am sure you will want to wish her every success in her new post.

The mid-year population of the Borough, as estimated by the Registrar General, was 17,050. As will be seen from the table of vital statistics 1955-1959 (inclusive) (Page 9), the population of the Borough has shown a continuing and steady rise.

Excluding tuberculosis, during the year 312 cases of infectious disease were notified.

This was considerably more than in 1958, due largely to the incidence of Measles, of which 238 cases were notified. There was an increase in the notification of dysentery compared with 1958.

There were two deaths from infectious disease, namely from Menin-gococcal infection and Acute Pneumonia.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis notified during the year was 10, and 7 cases came into the Borough from other parts of the country. This compared favourably with 1958.

The Mass Radiography Unit had a public session in the Butter Market in June 1959. 4312 persons were X-rayed and five cases of active Tuberculosis discovered, a rate of 1.16 per 1,000 of the examinees.

There were five deaths in children under one year, one of which was from a condition incompatible with continued life. Comparison of the numbers of such deaths over the last five years is in the body of the report.

I have included in this Annual Report a photograph of Mr. F. R. Smith who retired at the end of January, 1960.

Mr. Smith began his duties in Retford as sole Sanitary Inspector in January, 1925. He completed 50 years in the Health Department before retiring. Previously in Retford, the office had been joint with that of the Surveyor.

He served with ten Medical Officers of Health, namely – Drs. Beale, Seacombe, Conway, Duncan Forbes, Clarke, Davidson, Warrack, Tolland, Rainsford, and Barker.

The removal of unfit houses has been the major task in the 35 years. There were just over 3,800 in Retford in January 1925 and in the 35 years of Mr. Smith's work over 800 houses have been demolished, or, at the time of his retirement had confirmed orders standing on them for clearance. In addition, hundreds of houses were provided with better amenities such as sinks and internal water supply, whilst privy middens, pail closets and ash pits have been virtually eliminated.

During this 35 years diphtheria has disappeared, due in large part to immunisation, but in his earlier years Mr. Smith was greatly occupied by outbreaks of diphtheria and smallpox in Retford.

For many years a 100 per cent meat inspection has been maintained in spite of a large export of meat from the Borough although Mr. Smith has been a sole Borough Meat Inspector.

All who know him will wish him long life and happiness in his retirement, and all success to his gardening.

His successor, Mr. H. Brooks, took up his duties with Mr. Smith in December, 1959, and a hearty welcome is extended to him.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. TATTERSALL

Appointed Medical Officer of Health 1960

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND VITAL STATISTICS

Area	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,657 acres
Public Open Spaces	..	..	..	..	..	..	22 acres
Registrar General's estimated population mid-year 1959							17,050
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1960					..		5,607
Rateable Value 1st April, 1960			..	..	..	£	210,920
Sum represented by Penny Rate at 1st April, 1960			..			£	855

Vital statistics are calculated on estimated mid-year population given by the Registrar General, i.e. 17,050.

Live Births	..	..	..	..	T 247	M 129	F 145
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	..				..	..	16.07
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	..				..	..	5.80
Still-births	..	..	..	..	T 5	M 4	F 1
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still births					..	..	17.92
Total live and still-births	..	..	..	..	..	..	T 279
Infant deaths (under 1 year)	..	..			T 5	M 2	F 3
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	..				..	..	18.24
Legitimate mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	..				..	..	15.50
Illegitimate mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..				..	..	62.50
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.64
Early Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.64
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	..				..	..	3.58
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	..				..	..	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births					..	..	Nil
Deaths from all causes	..	..	..		T 212	M 98	F 114
Death rate per 1,000 population					..	..	..
							12.43

Causes of Death - 1959

Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	1
Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	1
Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	0
Diphtheria	..	..	..	0
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	0
Meningo-coccal infections	..	..	..	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	0
Measles	..	..	..	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	18
Leukaemia and aleukaemia	..	..	..	1
Diabetes	..	..	..	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	35
Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	24
Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	1
Other heart disease	..	..	..	29
Other circulatory diseases	..	..	..	20
Influenza	..	..	..	7
Pneumonia	..	..	..	14
Bronchitis	..	..	..	13
Other diseases of the respiratory system	..	..	..	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	4
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	..	..	..	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, and abortion	..	..	..	0
Congenital malformation	..	..	..	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	20
Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	5
All other accidents	..	..	..	1
Suicide	..	..	..	0
Homicide	..	..	..	1
Total	..			212

Causes of Death in Children under 1 year

	Under 24 hrs.	Under 1 week	Under 1 mth.	1-3 mths.	3-6 mths.	6-9 mths.	9-12 mths.	Total
Prematurity	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bronchopneumonia ..	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	3
Biliary Atresia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1

**Table showing Deaths of Children under 1 year
over the last five years**

Year	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
No. of deaths	5	4	5	6	4

Table Showing Vital Statistics 1955 - 1959 (inclusive)

	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Population (Mid-Year population as estimated by the Registrar-General)	17,050	17,000	16,940	16,900	16,850
BIRTHS					
Live Births - Legitimate	258	255	251	259	268
Illegitimate	16	14	8	10	7
Still Births - Legitimate	4	7	4	7	9
Illegitimate	1	—	—	—	—
DEATHS					
All Causes	212	209	193	215	175
Maternal Death	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile Deaths (i.e. under 1 year)	5	4	5	5	4
Neonatal (i.e. under 4 weeks)	1	3	2	4	—

PREVALENCE & CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following diseases are notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health :

Cholera	Pneumonia, Acute Primary
Diphtheria	Pneumonia, Acute Influenza
Dysentery	Poliomyelitis
Encephalitis (Acute)	Puerperal Pyrexia
Enteric, Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fever	Relapsing Fever
Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever
Malaria	Smallpox
Measles	Tuberculosis
Membranous Croup	Typhus
Meningococcal Infection	Whooping Cough
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Food Poisoning or suspected Food Poisoning
Plague	

The number of cases of infectious disease (excluding Tuberculosis) notified during 1959 was 312. Details of these are as follows :

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>
Dysentery	32
Measles	238
Pneumonia	4
Scarlet Fever	33
Whooping Cough	5

Tables showing various details about notifiable infectious diseases during the year 1959 are given on pages 12 and 13.

Tuberculosis. There were 17 cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year; of these, 10 were primary notifications, i.e. related to persons who had not previously been notified in the area of any authority, and 7 were non-primary notifications, these being transfers from other areas.

A table giving details of new cases and deaths from Tuberculosis is given on page 14.

Laboratory Facilities. Bacteriological examinations were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln. 754 specimens comprising urine and faeces were submitted for examination.

Vaccination and Immunisation. This is a Personal Health Service and is the responsibility of the Notts County Council. The work is organised by the District Medical Officer of Health as agent for the County Council. Protective measures are given against Smallpox, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Diphtheria (combined), and Poliomyelitis.

Sessions are held at schools and clinics, the work being done by Medical Officers working for the Public Health Department. Private medical practitioners also give the injections in their own practices.

Following are the figures showing the number of persons who have received protection against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Smallpox, and Poliomyelitis:

Prophylactic Measure	<i>By P.H.Dept.</i>	<i>By P.P.</i>
Diphtheria Immunisation		
Primary Immunisation	135	104
Reinforcing doses	122	29
Whooping Cough		
Primary Immunisation	116	104
Reinforcing doses	—	7
Vaccination against Smallpox		
Primary Vaccination	42	80
Revaccination	8	7
Vaccination against Poliomyelitis		
Primary Vaccination	1,238	632
Reinforcing doses	1,751	408

P.H. Dept. – Public Health Department.

P.P. – Private Medical Practitioner.

Infectious Diseases (Excluding Tuberculosis) Notified Month by Month — 1959

DISEASES	Total	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	32	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	—	10	4	10
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	238	2	7	15	44	55	64	40	10	1	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	33	7	4	—	1	2	—	—	—	5	10	1	3
Whooping Cough	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
Totals	312	9	13	18	46	59	65	41	12	7	20	8	14

Infectious Diseases (Excluding Tuberculosis) Notified in Age Groups — Admitted to Hospital, and Deaths, 1959

DISEASES	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years over	65 & un-known	Age admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	32	2	1	3	2	2	10	8	-	3	-	1	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	238	6	20	31	31	19	128	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyleitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyleitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	33	-	1	3	2	3	19	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	5	2	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	312	10	22	37	35	25	159	13	-	5	1	2	3	-	2

Transferred Death are included in this table.

Tuberculosis 1959

Table (a) New Cases and Deaths

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 2 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2- 3 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3- 4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4- 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-35 years	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45 years	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-65 years	1	1	—	1	—	1	1	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	4	—	1	—	1	1	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

Water Supply, Sewage Disposal, and Refuse Disposal are under the control of the Borough Surveyor and Water Engineer, who has given me the following information.

Water Supply

The East Retford Corporation is the Water Authority.

5,510 houses receive a supply direct from the Corporation's mains.

Approximately 7 houses are supplied from standpipes. One house is not supplied with Corporation water, the source of supply here being a well.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The older part of the Borough is on the combined system, that is to say the surface water and sewage discharge into the same drain and the majority of the houses have this service.

Conservancy System – a small number of houses are not connected to the sewers. Of these, 14 houses have pail closets. The emptying of these closets and privy middens is carried out by the Corporation.

A few houses have cesspools and the emptying of these is the responsibility of the owner.

Work on the construction of a new sewage disposal works on the east side of Hallcroft Road is in progress, the expected date of completion is April 1961.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

- (a) Amount of refuse collected in 1958 – 10,000 tons approximately;
- (b) Disposal is by tipping into disused gravel working.

This is not an entirely controlled method of tipping but is carefully watched and no nuisance has arisen.

The Corporation provides and maintains dustbins at dwellinghouses at an annual charge.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Details of the work carried out by the Public Health Department during the year are given in the report of the Public Health Inspector.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955, provides for the sampling of food and drugs for analysis or for bacteriological or other examinations. The Notts County Council is the authority responsible for these duties and I am grateful to Mr. Gregory, Chief Inspector, Foods and Drugs, for a report of the Public Analyst upon articles analysed during the year. Samples were obtained and the results are given on page 17.

FACTORIES ACT 1937

The tables on pages 18 and 19 give a summary of the work with respect to matters under Part I of the Factories Act, 1937.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT (1948) AND NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

These Acts provide for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care, and attention. No action was necessary under the Acts during the year though assistance in getting persons into hospital on a voluntary basis was given.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Particulars of samples examined and/or analysed during the year ended
31st December, 1959

Article	Number of Samples			Adulterated or sub-standard samples	
	Obtained	Genuine	Adult or Sub-Standard	Result of Exam'n and/ or analysis	Remarks
Bread	1	1	—		
Butter Cake	1	1	—		
Cheese	3	3	—		
Cheesecake Filling	1	1	—		
Christmas Pudding	1	1	—		
Cream Cheese	4	4	—		
Currants	1	1	—		
Drinking Chocolate	1	1	—		
Ginger, ground	1	1	—		
Glace Cherries	1	1	—		
Honey	1	1	—		
Ice Cream	1	1	—		
Icing Sugar	1	1	—		
Kippers, boned, smoked	1	1	—		
Lard	1	1	—		
Lemon Curd	1	1	—		
Lemon Squash	1	1	—		
Luncheon Meat	2	—	2	Contained only 69.8% & 71.3% meat respectively.	No Statutory standard. Brought to notice of appropriate Ministry.
Margarine	1	1	—		
Marzipan Decorations	2	—	2	(1) 76.8% deficient in ground almonds. (2) 51.6% ditto.	Manufacturer cautioned.
Meat Paste	1	—	1	Slightly deficient in meat.	Importer cautioned.
Meat Pies	1	1	—		
Milk	199	172	27	The 27 samples were found to be very slightly deficient due to natural causes.	Appropriate action was taken in these cases.
Milk, Condensed	1	1	—		
Minced Beef Loaf	1	1	—		
Mincemeat	1	1	—		
Oranges, fresh	1	1	—		
Orange & Lemon Slices	1	1	—		
Pepper, ground white	1	1	—		
Potted Beef	1	1	—		
Potted Meat	1	—	1	Contained 18.4% excess water.	Manufacturer cautioned.
Plums, canned	1	1	—		
Salmon, canned	1	1	—		
Sausage, Pork	4	4	—		
Soft Drink Tablets	1	1	—		
Steak Pie	1	1	—		
Strawberry Jam	1	1	—		
Sulphur Tablets	1	1	—		
Sweets	4	4	—		
Table Jelly	2	2	—		
Tomato Juice Cocktail	1	1	—		
Turkey Pie	1	1	—		
Vitamin Tonic	1	1	—		
Whipping Fat	1	1	—		
Totals	256	223	33		

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1.- INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted
		Inspections	Written notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	86	9	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	.. ..	—	—	—
TOTAL	93	11	1	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

2.-CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) —				
(a) Insufficient ..	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	1	1	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	3	2	—	—

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To the Medical Officer of Health in accordance with the Sanitary Officers' (outside London Regulations, 1935-1951):

Sir,

I hereby present to you my report on the work done during 1959.

There were three problems which considerably affected the year's work, viz :

- (1) The Dysentery outbreak in the autumn;
- (2) The supervision of an offensive trade during the summer months
- (3) The testing of petroleum stores over 20 years old and the replacement of obsolete petrol pumps.

As has been the case for many years, I found it impossible to do all the routine work which was desirable. One inspector in a Borough of 17,000 inhabitants cannot do much more than the absolute essentials of meat inspection, clearance of unfit housing, infectious disease, and complaints. Although I had help in meat inspection from two inspectors of the Retford R.D.C. staff, this was counter-balanced by the fact that there is a large export of meat from the Borough slaughterhouses. Incidentally it was still necessary for us to work regular overtime on weekday evening and practically every Sunday in order to achieve a 100 per cent meat inspection.

During 1959, 89 complaints were investigated, nuisances being found in 65 cases.

100 informal notices, requiring the abatement of nuisances or the remedying of defects, were served and in two cases these were followed by the service of statutory notices. These were effective in obtaining compliance, and it was not necessary to apply to the courts for a nuisance order.

Details of defects remedied will be found in a summary at the end of this report.

Housing

During 1959, 15 houses were represented as unfit for human habitation and were dealt with as follows:

Demolition Orders	8
Undertakings by owners	4
Deferred	3

Since the report to the Ministry in 1955 declaring that 381 houses in the Borough were considered to be unfit for human habitation, 255 have now been made subject to clearance, demolition, or closing orders or undertakings. As it was agreed to clear the 381 in 13 years we are somewhat ahead of our programme. The building of new houses, for the re-housing of tenants from unfit dwellings, was in arrear in 1959, so no clearance orders were made to allow the re-housing work to proceed without undue delay.

No new case of overcrowding was discovered during the year.

The Rent Act, 1957, has improved the position with regard to the repair of the privately owned rented houses. The increased income of the owners allows for a bigger margin for repairs and applications by tenants for certificates of disrepair has almost ceased. These applications numbered 5 in 1959 as against 37 in 1958, and 56 in 1957.

There are many houses in Retford without such amenities as baths, internal W.C.s, and running hot water. It is to be hoped that the offer of cash grants to assist the owners to modernise their houses will result in large-scale provision of these aids to a clean and healthy life.

<i>New Houses</i>	<i>By Borough Council</i>	<i>By Private Enterprise</i>	<i>Coal Industry Housing Association</i>
New houses completed during the year .. .	46	59	52
New houses under construction at the end of the year .. .	58	31	56

Disinfection and Disinfestation

Disinfection of houses and bedding has almost ceased to be done. In one case arrangements were made for bedding to be steam disinfected at Doncaster.

The number of houses treated for various insect pests by the Health Department was 42. The types of insect pests were:

Ants .. .	27	Cockroaches .. .	3
Beetles .. .	3	Fleas .. .	1
Flies .. .	1	Woodworm .. .	3
Wasp Nests .. .	4		

The refuse tip and other likely fly-breeding dumps are treated with insecticide during the summer period to reduce the fly population.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Acts, 1949

During 1959, 62 complaints were received alleging infestation of land or property with rodents:

	<i>Infested</i>	<i>Treated by Local Authority</i>
Business Properties .. .	.. 8	4
Dwelling houses .. .	.. 79	77
Other premises .. .	.. 5	5

Common Lodging House

There is one registered house in the Borough with accommodation for about 40 people.

16 visits were made during the year.

Dustbins

During 1959, 209 dustbins were supplied under the hire scheme.

Mortuary

In the year under review, 43 bodies were received in the Corporation mortuary, 10 from the Borough, 29 from the Rural District and 4 from other areas.

Meat Inspection

The public slaughterhouse at Grove Lane and the two private slaughterhouses in the Borough were in regular use throughout the year. There was an increase in the number of animals slaughtered for human food owing to the increase in the killings of sheep.

I am glad to be able to report once again that the carcases and organs of all the animals slaughtered at the slaughterhouses were inspected before removal. I had assistance from the inspectorial staff of the Retford Rural District Council, but the work necessitated regular overtime at nights and at the weekends. There is a large export of meat from the Borough into other adjacent areas.

A comparison in the number of animals killed at the slaughterhouse during the past seven years is as follows :

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
1959	2,854	134	6,299	6,595
1958	3,118	148	4,887	7,010
1957	3,546	166	3,768	6,867
1956	3,338	163	4,918	7,258
1955	2,633	144	3,862	6,255
1954	2,614	709	9,201	5,616
1953	3,521	1,026	10,635	3,775

Percentage affected with tuberculosis :

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Cattle	20.22	18.09	13.59	9.79	7.78	10.10	9.57
Calves	5.72	5.72	3.27	2.41	1.77	1.76	3.73
Pigs	0.28	0.42	0.69	0.61	1.80	2.70	2.56

The next two or three years should see a great diminution in this disease as the work of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in the elimination of this disease from the Nottinghamshire farms is completed. The purification of the meat and milk supplies has been of great benefit to the public and to the farmers and meat traders.

During 1959 the number of cases of viable *Cysticercus Bovis* dropped to four.

The weight of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption is shown in the table for the past seven years. It is a very high figure, but it is almost entirely due to the trade in casualty animals carried on in Retford by a wholesale butcher. The great bulk of the meat offered for sale to the public in Retford is of the highest quality.

Total Weight of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption:

1959 – 102,908 lbs.	1955 – 64,497 lbs.
1958 – 86,878 lbs.	1954 – 84,690 lbs.
1957 – 93,578 lbs.	1953 – 109,121 lbs.
1956 – 88,507 lbs.	

In this, my last report, I should like to put on record the co-operation of the meat traders with me in my work of meat inspection. My decisions have been accepted without demur although in some cases causing severe financial loss to the traders, and it shows the desire of the meat traders to offer meat of sound high quality to the public.

The causes for condemnation of whole carcases were as follows:

	Heifers and Steers	Cows and Bulls	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Tuberculosis.....	13	9	4	-	3
Anaemia	1	1	2	49	-
Blackleg.....	-	-	1	-	-
Bruising, extensive & severe	1	4	2	10	-
Decomposition	-	-	1	-	6
Emaciation and/or Oedema..	28	38	26	102	18
Fever	1	8	9	27	11
Immaturity	-	-	17	-	-
Jaundice	-	1	-	1	-
Leukaemia.....	-	-	-	2	-
Pyaemia	1	-	3	2	4
Pyelo-nephritis, bi-lateral ..	-	-	-	-	4
Septic metritis, acute	-	2	-	2	1
Septic pericarditis, acute ..	3	-	-	-	-
Septic peritonitis, acute	-	4	1	3	8
Other septic conditions	1	3	4	10	3
Swine erysipelas, acute	-	-	-	-	7
Tumours, multiple and malignant	1	-	-	-	1
Uraemia	1	-	5	3	2
Total carcases condemned	51	70	75	211	68

Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or part

	Heifers and Bullocks	Cows and Bulls	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2313	541	134	6299	6595
Number inspected	2313	540	134	6299	6595
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	38	61	71	211	65
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	761*		5	141	140
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease	30.14		56.71	5.58	3.10
Tuberculosis Only:					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	13	9	4	Nil	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	251*		1	Nil	166
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	9.57	3.73		Nil	2.56
Cysticerci:					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

* Accurate details not available

Inspections of food premises were carried out as follows:

Registered food premises:

(a) Ice-cream Premises	25
(b) Premises registered for manufacture of meat and preserved food	50
Other food premises	101
Markets	72
Dairies	13
Bakehouses	11

Inspection of Food during 1959. 28 visits, in addition to the visits for inspection of premises, were made to food premises for inspection of food usually after a request from the food trader.

I give below a list of food condemned, usually for decomposition:

Peas	11 tins	Corned mutton ..	1 tin
Evaporated milk ..	9 tins	Lambs tongues ..	2 tins
Baked beans.....	5 tins	Jellied veal	1 tin
Tomatoes.....	23 tins	Ham.....	4 tins
Luncheon meat ..	8 tins	Minced beef loaf	3 tins
Corned beef.....	12 tins	Stewed steak	5 tins
Duck.....	1	Ox tongue	4 tins
Chicken	2 tins	Fruit	10 tins
Goose	1 tin	Pork sausages	12 pkts
Spam.....	1 tin	Melons	35
Chopped pork	1 tin	Miscellaneous....	12 tins

13 samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these, 12 proved to be satisfactory and one unsatisfactory.

Premises registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act:

(a) Meat Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..	13
(b) Ice-cream Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..	2
(c) Ice-cream Retailers	..	..	..	..	..	58

Milk and Dairies Regulations

Dairies registered with the Borough Council	2
(1) Dealers' licences issued authorising the use of the special designation 'Pasteurised' in relation to milk	1
(2) Dealers' licences issued authorising the use of the special designation 'Tuberculin Tested' in relation to milk ..	2
(3) Dealers' licences issued authorising the use of the special designation 'Sterilised' in relation to milk	2

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations

Pasteurised Milk and Sterilised Milk are submitted to prescribed tests. The Notts County Council are responsible for this work. During the year, 108 samples of pasteurised milk were obtained and submitted to these tests. All but one of the samples complied with the tests.

Notices were served in accordance with the Food Hygiene Regulations, as below :

		Notes sent	Complied*
Regulation 6.	Cleanliness of equipment, etc.	..	—
14.	Sanitary conveniences ..	..	3
16.	Washbasins to be provided ..	..	3
20.	Lighting of food rooms ..	..	1
21.	Ventilation of food rooms ..	..	1
29.	Transport of meat .. ..	..	1
23.	Cleanliness and repair of food rooms	13	4

*Some of the figures in column 2 relate to notices outstanding from previous year.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

I have always regretted that in a Borough of 17,000 it has been impossible for one inspector to visit the food premises in the Borough as often as is desirable. Certain work such as meat inspection, Housing Act work, visits to infectious disease, and investigation of complaints must be done and this means that routine work of general inspections often has to be neglected.

However, I have been able to instigate considerable improvement in food handling and in food premises in many cases. There is a steady all-round improvement in food hygiene and there were no cases of food poisoning in the Borough in 1959.

Clean Air

We have no apparatus in the town for recording the degree of pollution of the atmosphere. With the exception of the railways and gas works there is little industrial pollution of the air. The gradual introduction of diesel or electric locomotives on the railways will eventually reduce the smoke from this source. We are informed by the East Midlands Gas Board that Retford will be linked with the gas grid in the near future and that the gas works in Grove Street are likely to be closed.

However, at least 50 per cent of the smoke nuisance arises from household fires and there is scope for much improvement here. Education of the public on this problem is the most urgent need as progress is difficult without the support of the people.

'This report is the thirty-fifth I have written on my work in Retford and it is my last. There has been considerable progress and improvements in Public Health in the Borough particularly in the standards of housing.

Finally, may I express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and other members of the Town Council for their great help and courtesy to me in our joint work for the improvement of the health of the public.

I have been fortunate, in almost all cases, in the quality of my medical officers and other chief officers of the Corporation. I thank them for their great assistance to me over all these years. It has always been a pleasure to work with the clerical staff of the Health Department and of the Corporation, the local nursing staff of the Notts County Council, and with the staff of the Public Health Department of the Retford Rural District Council. May I thank all of them for their unfailing help and kindness to me.

F. R. SMITH,

Public Health Inspector

Summary of Nuisances abated during the year

Defective drainage	..	..	..	..	35
Defective yard paving	..	..	..	..	5
Defective walls	..	..	..	..	6
Dampness	..	..	..	..	8
Defective floors	..	..	..	..	3
Defective plasters	..	..	..	..	5
Defective windows	..	..	..	..	8
Defective doors	..	..	..	..	2
Defective roofs	..	..	..	..	8
Defective spouting	..	..	..	..	6
Defective chimney flues	..	..	..	..	2
Defective sinks	..	..	..	..	3
Defective cooking ranges and fireplaces			..	..	13
Defective ventilation	..	..	..	..	3
Dirty premises	..	..	..	..	5
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	1
Refuse accumulations	..	..	..	..	7
Nuisances from animals	..	..	..	..	3
Smoke and dust nuisances	..	..	..	..	7
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	17

Summary of visits made during the year

Houses inspected, Public Health Acts	..	183
Houses inspected, Housing Acts	..	187
Complaints investigated..	..	93
Visits re nuisances	..	36
Common Lodging House	..	16
Visits re Rent Act	..	11
Factories ..	..	11
Infectious disease cases ..	..	517
Offensive Trades	..	192
Rats and Mice ..	..	58
Petroleum Acts ..	..	100
Shops Acts ..	..	3
Interviews with owners, etc.	..	27
Revisits to properties under notice	..	130
Bakehouses ..	..	11
Slaughterhouses ..	..	807
Butcher's shops, re Food Hygiene	..	50
Markets ..	..	72
Ice Cream premises	..	25
Dairies ..	..	13
Other food premises	..	101
Re food inspection	..	28
Caravans ..	..	25
Clean Air Act ..	..	11
Pet Shops..	..	5
Miscellaneous ..	..	50
Total		2,762

SERVICES PROVIDED BY OTHER AUTHORITIES

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

(a) Hospital and Specialist Services (Part II National Health Service Act, 1946).

The Sheffield Regional Hospital Board is responsible for the hospitals serving East Retford Borough and Rural District through a Hospital Management Committee. There are three hospitals :

Victoria Hospital, Worksop
Kilton Hospital Worksop
Retford and District Hospital, Retford

and the Worksop and Retford Hospital Management Committee carries out the day to day administration of these hospitals.

(b) Health Services provided by Local Health Authorities

The Nottinghamshire County Council provides the following services under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946 (Dr. C.W.W. Jeremiah, County Medical Officer and Principal School Medical Officer).

1. Care of Mothers and Young Children.
2. Domiciliary Midwifery.
3. Home Nursing.
4. Health Visiting
5. Vaccination and Immunisation.
6. Ambulance Service.
7. Prevention of illness, care, and after-care of persons suffering from illness.
8. Home Help.
9. Mental Health.

Care of Mothers and Young Children

(a) Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Clinic, 22, Market Square, Retford, at the following times :

Mondays : 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Thursdays : 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Fridays : 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

A Medical Officer is in attendance on Mondays and alternate Thursdays.

(b) Ante-Natal Clinics are also held at 22 Market Square, Retford, each Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. when a Medical Officer is in attendance.

Domiciliary Midwifery

Mothers who can, and wish to be confined at home, are attended by one of the County Midwives, of whom there are two in the Borough.

Mrs. J.L. Ashworth,
2, Fairway, Ordsall, Retford.
Tel. No. Retford 2157

Mrs. Maltby,
125, Northfield Way, Retford.
Tel. No. Retford 718

Home Nursing. This is a service which provides for the nursing of the chronically sick patients and of the less serious forms of acute illness where the family doctor requests it. This service is provided by the Retford and District Nursing Association and the work is carried out on its behalf by :

Mrs. R.M. Coates,
16, Osberton Road, Retford.
Tel. No. Retford 457

Mrs. L.N. Pearson,
12, Victoria Road, Retford.
Tel. No. Retford 545

Mrs. J.M. Wylie,
5, Millfield Close, Ordsall, Retford.
Tel. No. Retford 959

Health Visiting. Health Visitors are State Registered Nurses with knowledge of midwifery, who have attended a whole-time course in Public Health work and received the Health Visitors Certificate. Their duties are in respect of the Personal Health Services. They work in the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and do routine visiting of their districts, advising on prevention of illness and maintenance of health. The Health Visitors for the Borough are Miss Watson and Mrs. Worrall.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

The Vaccination and Immunisation service is organised for the County Council by the District Medical Officer of Health, acting as the agent of the County Council.

Ambulance Service

The main ambulance station is situated in the Retford Borough and the vehicles comprise four ambulances and two dual purpose vehicles, which will carry six sitting cases or three sitting cases and one stretcher.

The Station Supervisor is Mr. E.J. Parker, Officer : Exchange Street, Retford, Telephone No. Retford 400.

Home Help

The Office is in Chancery Lane, Retford. This most useful service provides domestic help where, on account of illness, age, or other domestic reasons, it is required. Home Help Supervisor: Miss Turner.

(c) Provision of General Medical and Dental Services, Pharmaceutical Services, and Supplementary Ophthalmic Services (Part IV National Health Service Act, 1946).

THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The School Health Service (known as the School Medical Service until 1945) started officially in 1908, but its growth was greatly increased by the Education Act of 1944 and the National Health Service Act of 1946.

The County Council as the local Education Authority is responsible for the School Health Service.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

The County Council provides a welfare service for the aged and handicapped persons. The District Welfare Officer is Mr J. Barrow, Grove Street, Retford. Telephone No. 232.

Details of Attendance at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre during 1959

	Total Attendances	Medical Consultations
Children	4,481	
Expectant Mothers ..	262	
Post-natal Cases	7	635

